SUBJECT No. 220.

Malnad allowance to officials.

(1) Mr. B. Kesaviah, Chikmagalur taluk.
(2) Mr. Kalle Gowda, Mudgere taluk.

Summary of discussion.—(1) Officials of some departments in malnad districts get the malnad allowance, while those of similar rank in some other departments do not. It is prayed that the concession may be extended to all officials of equal ranks in all departments.

Malnad allowances may be granted to officials of civil courts.

(2) The pay of Rs. 10 now given to the schoolmasters of the malnad is hardly sufficient for their maintenance. Like the officials of the Revenue and Police departments they may also be given malnad allowance.

Reply of Government.—Noted.

SUBJECT No. 221.

Grant of grain compensation allowance and increase of pay to officials.

Messrs. Garudachar, Channapatna Municipality, and C. Narasimhaiya, Mysore District Board; Madar Sab, Hutchveeregowda, Gubbi taluk; and Chikkabadappa, Sira taluk; Mahomad Imam Sab, Mir Mahomad Sab, and Subba Rao, Tarikere taluk; and S. Hanumantha Rao, Devanhalli taluk

Summary of discussion.—From the last *Dhatu* and *Eswara* years, there have not been timely and seasonable rains and consequently no good outturn of crops and the prices of food stuffs are steadily rising. Even during the famine years of *Dhatu* and *Eswara*, rice was selling at 4 and 5 seers a rupee and ragi at 6 and 7 seers; compared with them the present rates are not better, as rice is now selling at 5½ or 6 seers a rupee.

The officials drawing Rs. 50 and below are undergoing great hardship to make both ends meet. Under such circumstances, it is necessary that such officials should get some increase to their pay, and this may kindly be given. The pay of peons in all the departments of the State may likewise be not less than Rs. 8 per mensem. Grain compensation allowance may be granted to all the Government officials getting a salary of Rs. 30 and below.

Reply of Government.—Under consideration.

SUBJECT No. 222.

Encashment of Rangoon Circle currency notes in Mysore treasuries.

Mr. M. Venkataramaiya, Manjarabad taluk.

Summary of discussion.—Rangoon Circle currency notes are being largely introduced by the Bombay merchants here. In local treasuries, these currency notes are not cashed. Pray that orders be passed to encash such notes in the treasuries of the State.

Reply of Government.—This is all done.

EXCISE.

(Nos. 223 to 229.)

SUBJECT No. 223.

Offences under the Excise Regulation.

Messrs. B. Alasingrachar and Doddapayanna, Hassan taluk; and Srikanta Rao, Devanhalli taluk

Summary of discussion.—Under the existing practice, contractors are held responsible for offences committed by arrack and toddy vendors, involving thereby immense trouble and annoyance to the contractors whose respectability will be affected by being dragged to courts for the petty mischiefs of the vendors. The existing rules on the subject may be modified early so as to bring the culprits to book.

Reply of Government.—A Bill is now before the Legislative Council to amend the Excise Regulation for the purpose.

SUBJECT NO. 224.

Sale of Toddy and Arrack shops.

Girmaji Rao, Kolar Municipality.

Summary of discussion.—In excise shops Nos. 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 8 and 9 in the Bowringpet taluk the consumption during the year 1910-11 was 50,616 gallons of arrack and the contractor's profit was estimated at Rs. 40,000 at 12 annas 10 pies per gallon. The rental on these shops is Rs. 88,176 and the contractor must therefore make up the difference of Rs. 48,176 for payment of the Government dues, either by selling arrack at a higher rate or by short measurement, or by dilution. To prevent these irregularities, the arrack shops may be sold at an upset rent to honest men by striking the average consumption for five years.

Reply of Government.—The existence of malpractices in arrack shops is not peculiar to the State and has been found to exist in many places, for example, in the Madras and Bombay Presidencies. Every effort has been made to minimise such evils; for instance, strengthening the patrol staff, establishing what are called check shops as on the Kolar Gold Fields, and insisting on surprise visits being paid to such shops by the excise staff. The remedy proposed by the member, namely, disposal of shops otherwise than by auction would not bring about the result aimed at, as even then the conditions of sale of liquor would be the same. The Government of India have after careful consideration, decided that disposal of arrack shops on fixed fees is undesirable as it leads to the creation of vested interests and they have recommended the sale of the shops by auction on long term leases. The system has already been to some extent introduced into the State in regard to toddy. The suggestion of the member seems to be impracticable.

SUBJECT NO. 225.

Tree-tax on date trees in inam villages.

(1) Mr. V. Raghavachar, Pavagada taluk, and
(2) Messrs. Madappa and Siddappa, Mysore taluk, and Amble Anniah Pandit, Mysore City Municipality.

Summary of discussion.—(1) Nothing has been decided as regards the refund of tree-tax levied on the date trees growing in inam villages. Till definite rules are framed in the matter, the inamdars will be put to inconvenience. It is therefore requested that orders may be issued to refund the amount of tree-tax in accordance with present rules till new ones are framed.

(2) The question of inamdar's rights to toddy revenue has been under the consideration of Government for a long time. Though many petitions have been presented since the year 1897 praying for the payment of the revenue nothing has been done, while coercive measures are adopted for the recovery of any dues from such inamdars